These projects are expected to contribute about 26.704 million tonnes of crude oil production during the 8th Plan period. These projects are expected to cost about Rs. 10561 crores.

Demand and supply of LPG

504. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic demand of LPG is estimated to be 6.2 million tonnes whereas the likely supply by the Oil Companies is estimated to be 3.1 million tonnes as reported in the Financial Express, New Delhi, dt. 16.1.95;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the demand of LPG will increase annually by 6 per cent hitting 8.7 million tonnes by 2,000 A.D. whereas at present LPG network covers only 20 million households in the country;

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken so far to clear the pending applications for LPG connections and for increasing annual production thereof indicating the total number of applications received/ cleared during 1994-95; and

(d) whether Government propose to set up any new Gas plants in Rajasthan and Orissa, if so, the details thereof, indicating whether the same are proposed in the Public or in the Private Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Government is aware of the report published in Financial Express, New Delhi dated 26.1.1995. The potential demand of LPG in the country is considerably higher than the indigenous production. The oil industry has assessed the potential demand of LPG in the country as 6.2 MAT during 1994-95 and 6.17 MMT by the year 1999-2000. As per a survey regarding assessment of potential LPG demand in the country by an agency, which was commissioned by the Oil Industry, the growth rate for domestic demand was projected as 4.9 per cent.

Plans have been drawn to augment the availability of LPG in the country through commissioning of new sources, higher production from the existing sources, development of new import facilities and augmentation of existing import facilities. Government has also allowed import and sale of LPG by private agencies through their own net-work at market determined prices. The target for enrolment of new LPG customers during 1994-95 has been fixed at 20 lakhs, which has been achieved.

(d) At present two new LPG bottling plants are proopsed to be set up by public sector oil companies at Udaipur and Bikaner in Rajasthan with 10 TMTPA and 22 TMTPA capacity respectively. There is no proposal by any Government oil company at present to set up LPG bottling plant in Orissa.

Discovery of oil off the Kerala Coast

505. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any oil bearing structure has been found off the Kerala coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the plan for oil exploration in the Kerala region in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In Kerala-Konkan Basin acquisition of 1800 LK of 2D seismic data and drilling of 5 wells have been planned during the period 1994-97.

In addition to the above, 2100 LK 2D seismic data has been planned for 1994-95 in deep water areas of Kerala-Konkan.

Vacent posts of SCs/STs in IBP

506. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lying vacant in IBP Company Limited;

(b) the reasons for not filling up these posts; and

(c) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) IBP Company Limited has got backlog vacancies of 22 Scheduled Castes and 19 Scheduled Tribes as on 13-3-1995. Action for filling up of the backlog positions could not be taken up in full swing as recruitment had been temporarily kept in abeyance, since IBP is in the process of redeployment of surplus manpower in their organisation. However, since December, 1993 IBP had advertised 5 vacancies of SCs and 2 vacancies of STs against which IBP could recruit 2 SC and one ST candidates.

Retail outlets to freedom fighters in Tamil Nadu

507. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the number of freedom fighters who have been sanctioned petrol retail outlets and LPG agencies in Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): During the last three years three retail outlet dealerships and one LPG distributorship have been allotted under the Freedom Fighters category by the oil marketing companies, in Tamil Nadu.

Increase in the Commission for LPG

508. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Indian LPG Distributors Federation regarding increase of commission, abolition of slab procedure of commission and for evolving any concrete formula for fixation of separate prices for the home delivery of LPG cylinders and for their delivery at the godown;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.